

THE MESSENGER

“LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT”

February 28, 2018

MORE LIGHT?!

I've been functioning without.

During these winter months with the furnace drying out the air, we have a small humidifier that we use upstairs. It's my job to keep it filled and operating. Usually I'm on it, and keep it going.

Doing so means removing the reservoir, and taking it to the utility room where there's a sink that can accommodate it. It's a simple matter of holding it under the faucet until full, except for one thing - I can't see.

Now to be fair, I confess that it's often early or late when I do it, and my glasses are downstairs. Nevertheless, there is one light in the room and the sink is set so that I have to stand where it throws a shadow on the container and my job. I guess I need - more light!

Do you? Not just in your house, but in your life – do you need more of God's Light to help you see things clearly, to guide you in where to go, to help you do things without strain?

And what about others - would they benefit from more Light in you that would attract them?

Obviously, the answers are yes. So get closer to the Lord, so you'll benefit from the Light, shine the Light, and live the Light. Because what the world needs is - more Light.

MCD

WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING

The Week of Compassion Offering goes to help those in emergency situations such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and other natural disasters. Our goal this year is \$1,600 and we have reached \$1,059.



Lenten Music & Meditation Program

Music and Meditation services are held at 12:00 NN each Wednesday at the Presbyterian Church with a light luncheon following. Wednesday, March 7, the speaker will be Gary Thomas with music by Kevin & Jeanette Levellie.



24-Hour Prayer Vigil

Each year, the Saturday before Palm Sunday, FCC participates in a 24-hour Prayer Vigil. This year it will be Saturday, March 24, at 8:00 AM and go through Sunday, March 25, 8:00 AM. One-half hour time slots are available to sign-up. The prayers take place in our FCC Prayer Room. You may pray in pairs with a spouse or friend. Sign-up and list your phone number with your name. This experience has been a very meaningful time to many, so think about participating this year. The sign-up sheet is out in the hallway.



Congratulations to Will and Drew McMahan, and parents, Joe & Jenny in their dedications Sunday!

Home from Hospital:

JD Hasler Dan Dayton
Bill Chittick Karen Moore

Our sympathies go to Berniece Hayes in the recent death of her sister-in-law.

Congratulations to Nels & Autumn Kasey on becoming grandparents! with the birth of John Luke to Kiersten & John Edgar. Blessings to all.



-- Jazzy Littlejohn for the Pastor's Class snack;

-- Mary Helen Hamilton for the 8:00 accompaniment;

-- Daniel Smittkamp & Rev. Mike for the Children's Sermons;

-- Milam's for the MICE activity and outing;

-- Cory & Denise Craig & Membership Committee for the All-Church dinner... and Talent Show emceed by Daniel Smittkamp and all the "talent" shared;

-- Carolyn Lanker for the devotion and Deena Hasler for the program at Golden Age.

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**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

Light drives out darkness;  
Love drives out hate.

~~~~~  
MARCH PRAYER

Dear God, When the outside world is roaring like a lion, help us to remember that we can find peace in the mercy of your Lamb. Amen.

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**BIBLE STUDY**

You are invited to join us for Bible Study on the book of Galations on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM in the Jerusalem Room at FCC.

**TRIP TO "PASSION PLAY"**

A few tickets are still available for the "Passion Play" in Bloomington, IL on Saturday, March 17. Sign-up! If you have questions, see Candi Milam.

**PRAYER CHAIN**

We need to update our Prayer Chain to pray for urgent and emergency needs. If you would like to be included - either on the telephone chain, or the email list - let us know. Contact the office or Dorothy Farnham, coordinator.

**LENTEN VIDEO STUDY**

Join our Lenten Video Study on Mondays through March 26 at 5:00 PM in the Jerusalem Room. Even if you missed some, you are still welcomed and will benefit. We are hearing and watching stories of those "Made For A Miracle." Come share the message, discussions, and prayers.

**LENTEN PRAYER PROGRAM**

Thank you to all who took the remaining prayer packets. They are all out! If you wanted one and did not get a packet, please call and we'll provide one asap.

**CANTATA WORSHIP**

Our FCC Cantata Sunday will be April 22. Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, March 4. All singers are welcome. See Peg Dixon.

**SECRET PLACE DEVOTIONALS**

The new edition of "The Secret Place" devotional is located at the entryways.

**WORSHIP INVITATIONS**

We will have worship invitations available this Sunday. It's a great time to invite others!

**HOLY WEEK COMMUNION**

FCC will have a special service in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, March 29.

**FCC T-SHIRTS**

We have a few of the FCC t-shirt orders ready to be picked up at the church. If any are not correct, let us know. We have some additional shirts on the coatrack for sale for \$10 each.

**EMAILS APPRECIATED**

We'd like your email address! If it's changed, let us know - we need to keep current! Thank you!

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- ◆ Memorials Comm: Thurs, March 8, 10:30 AM
- ◆ Elders: Thursday, March 8, 5:00 PM
- ◆ Board: Tuesday, March 13, 7:00 PM

**BUILDING UPDATE**

The newness continues. Plans are to clean the pew cushions in the sanctuary and replace floor mats. Also, painting is being done in the hallways and main floor, followed with new carpeting. Thanks Trustees for supervising!

### CWF - CIRCLE INFO.

- ♥ CIRCLE OF LIGHT will meet Tuesday, March 6, at 6:00 PM.
- ♥ CWF Leadership Team meeting will be Thursday, March 8, at 3:30 PM.
- ♥ CIRCLE OF PRAYER will meet Thursday, March 8, at 6:00 PM.
- ♥ Please continue to follow along on the "Blessing Box" calendar through March.

### FCC RELAY FOR LIFE

The theme for this year's Relay For Life is, "May the Cure Be With You - Fight Like a Jedi" so Star Wars memorabilia is needed. If we can borrow it, please let Coralie Smittkamp or Tammy Terry know. Thank you for your support!

### DISCIPLE MEN'S HAM LOAVES

Ham Loaves are available at \$6 for the one pound loaf and \$12 for the two pound from the Disciples Men. Fill out an order form and turn it in to the office or give to Ken Hamilton. Payment can be made at time of order or when you pick it up. Make checks to "Disciples Men".

### COMMUNITY KITCHEN

The FCC night at Community Kitchen is Monday, March 19. Extra servers and desserts are always welcome! Sign-up, please.

### MISSION TRIP MONEY

We mentioned that JC Foley is going on a Mission Trip to Russia this spring to help complete construction of a church building. If you would like to donate, designate your gift.

### YOUTH SUNDAY SERMON

Copies of the Youth Sunday sermon will be available this Sunday on the sign-up desk.

### CHILDREN'S MOVIE

FCC will offer a free children's movie during spring break March 27, 28, 29, "All Dogs Go To Heaven". You are invited to go at 10 AM and to pray for this outreach in our community.

### *Thank You!*

Church Family, Thank you so much for the Valentine bag filled with goodies. It was sure sweet of you all to think of me. - Sue Hooker

First Christian Church Family, Thanks so much for the goodies, "Love in a Bag" and thinking of me. With love, Esther Blanford

Thank you for the Valentine treat and also the beautiful birthday cards. - Marcella Johnson



Youth Group Hey everybody, Wednesday night youth group is here! Jr. High is from 6-7 PM and Sr. High is from 6:30-8 PM. Invite your friends!

\* \* \*

Upcoming Trips For the Jr. High, we are attending a conference called "Believe." Believe is an overnighter, full of worship and chances to learn and grow closer to God. This will take place April 7-8 in Anderson, IN. The cost is \$60 + 2 meals per student, and the deadline is March 7- **that's in less than 2 weeks!** For High School, we are planning to attend a concert by the band, "Rend Collective," one of my personal favorites; they are a praise and worship band in folk-rock style. The concert is April 22 in Rock Island, IL. It's a one-day trip, costing \$32 per student + 1 meal.

\* \* \*

God's Gang/Crossroads God's Gang is underway! Even if you're late, you can still sign-up. Registration is open, so come and sign-up! Forms will be on a table in the hallway.

\* \* \*

MICE went to Shewey's Arts Center here in town last Sunday. Several kids showed up and enjoyed good food and painted figurines. MICE is for 2-5 graders. If you are interested next month, you are welcome! The next MICE outing is Sunday, March 25.

\* \* \*

SUMMER CAMP may seem far away, but it sneaks up fast! If you or your child is interested in signing up for summer camps at Camp Walter Scott, the registration deadline is April 20 with an early-bird discount until March 16. **(Scholarship money is available for those who need it.)** FCC is offering to pay half of your camp experience! We think camp is important! So don't miss out on this incredible opportunity. A letter of important information will be coming out soon, so be looking out for that. One of the camps is Grandparents and Me. It is for K-5th grade students and one of their grandparents to go together - July 8-11 at Camp Walter Scott. It's only 3 days, so it should be no problem for anyone to fit into their schedule!

\* \* \*

PASTOR'S CLASS If you are unaware, we offer "Pastor's Class" which is a 7-week class primarily for 5th graders. They are taught the basics of Church, Jesus, baptism, etc. The class ends around Palm Sunday and the children are encouraged to commit themselves to baptism, Which then happens on Easter Sunday. While it is too late to join this class, if your child is older and has questions (adults, too!), we are more than happy to meet individually to discuss these important dogmas of the Christian faith. So, come talk!

- John Snidle, FCC Youth Minister



# THE MESSENGER

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

201 S. Main St., Paris, Illinois 61944

Phone 217-466-3255

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 AM-12 NN, 1-4 PM

E-mail: firstchristian@nwcable.net

Web page: www.fccparis.org ~ We're also on Facebook: FCC Paris

Michael C. Dixon, Senior Minister ~ John Snidle, Youth & Family Minister

**PERMIT #147**

Paris, Illinois

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## **COME WORSHIP WITH US**

**EARLY WORSHIP 8:00 AM ~ SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM ~ WORSHIP 10:00 AM**

*MISSION STATEMENT* First Christian Church's mission is to grow disciples who are:

*"Believing in Christ,*

*Behaving as Christ,*

*Becoming like Christ"*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### ATTENDANCE

**We count because you count!**

**Feb. 25: 8:00 - 49 10:00 - 96 Nursery - 5**

**TOTAL WORSHIP = 150**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 4, 2nd-5th - 2, Jr & Sr High - 2, New Disciples - 12, Open Door - 15, New Horizons - 13**

**TOTAL SS = 48**

### OFFERING TOTALS

**February 25, 2018**

|                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund+E.G.*               | \$4,971.75*        |
| Sunday School                    | 23.00              |
| Envelopes                        | 1.00               |
| God's Gang                       | 20.00              |
| Emergency Fund                   | 20.00              |
| Food Pantry                      | 80.00              |
| Talent Show-Membership Committee | 172.00             |
| Faith In Action                  | 50.00              |
| Reimbursements T-Shirts          | 220.00             |
| Youth Fund                       | 50.00              |
| Disciples Out-Missions+E.G.      | 400.00*            |
| Week of Compassion+E.G.          | 883.00*            |
| Building Fund+E.G.               | 800.00*            |
| Organ Fund                       | 50.00              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>\$7,740.75*</b> |

### SERVING SCHEDULE: March 4, 2018 - LENT

**8:00 AM:** ELDER: Dick James

DEACONESS: Carla Keltz

PIANIST: Pete Templeton

**9:00 AM: Sunday School**

**10:00 AM: GREETERS:**

East: Jim & Carolyn Ray

West: Chuck & Mary K. Bradford

ACOLYTES: Sammy Milam, Ethan Smittkamp

WORSHIP LEADER: Kim Woods

BREAD ELDER: Rick Kennedy

DEACONESS: Susan King

DEACONS: Team 2, Autumn Kasey, Captain; Jim Bellerud,

Al & Nancy Englebright, Mark Johnson, JK Vilks, Patty

Waters, Kevin Woods

JR DEACONS: Team #2, Lainey Ogle, Capt.; Aubrey

Sanders, Alex Tapscott, Ben Young

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Rick Kennedy

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Emily Thomas

NURSERY HELPER: Brooklyn Ward

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Edna Creech

MAR. FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Katie Vaughn

MAR. USHERS: Randy Creech, Ken Dennison,

Lloyd Maggert

SOUND SYSTEM: Tony Peel

PROJECTION: Chris Milam

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:36-50

SERMON: "Living The Light: Daring"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

